

The role and the work of the European and North Atlantic Aviation Security Group (ENAVSECG)

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ICAO EUR/NAT Regional Initiatives

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RD Brief



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I. WELCOME

Security and Facilitation is one of the five ICAO strategic objectives. The continuous relevance of aviation security (AVSEC) is underlined by statistical data on terrorist activities reaching back for more than two decades showing that civil aviation continues to be one of the most attractive targets.

It is essential to keep up with the pace of evolution, recognize and act on new and emerging threats by establishing a robust and harmonized global framework of effective and efficient measures to counter those threats on the global, regional and national levels, even in these times of the COVID-19 pandemic.

This RD Brief will provide some background history and the current activities of the European and North Atlantic Aviation Security Group (ENAVSECG).

Enjoy the reading,

Silvia Gehrler

II. History of ENAVSECG

Annex 17 to the Chicago Convention provides for the global legal framework in the field of Aviation Security. Compliance with its Standards is mandatory for all 193 ICAO member States. The ICAO EUR/NAT Office, which is in charge of supporting all States in the implementation of Annex 17, is accredited to 56 States that span the entire European Continent, Central Asia, North Africa, Iceland in the North Atlantic and Israel.

Given the complexity and diversity of the Region, and the numerous regional organizations that cover parts of the EUR/NAT Region, it is a challenge to coordinate properly with all involved entities, and to support Member States efficiently whilst avoiding duplication. ICAO is the only body that can offer the leadership and all-encompassing platform to accommodate all States, regional organizations and industry in the strive to reach a harmonized understanding and implementation of AVSEC measures.

During the EUR/NAT Regional Aviation Security Conference in November 2011, held in Moscow, Russian Federation, States underlined ICAO's role in the joint conference statement: "...we commend the leadership role of ICAO for strengthening Aviation Security at the global and regional levels, and urge ICAO to continue to reinforce cooperation amongst all aviation security stakeholders..." In the months following the Conference, in order

to allow focused regional work, the remaining ICAO Regional Offices in Paris, Cairo and Lima were staffed with Regional AVSEC Officers; completing the deployment commenced in 2008 of one AVSEC Officer in the ICAO Regional Offices of Dakar, Nairobi, Mexico and Bangkok.

The first Aviation Security meeting convened in Paris in July 2012 concentrated on States in the Eastern part of the EUR Region and gathered under the provisional name of "AVSEC EAST". It was decided that the regional AVSEC meeting should encompass all 56 Member States, regional and international organizations and all other relevant stakeholders. Consequently, in 2013, the ICAO EUR/NAT Office created the EUR/NAT Aviation Security Group (ENAVSECG) where all regional AVSEC players were invited to contribute.

The ENAVSECG has been meeting once a year ever since. It continues to grow and involve more States, regional and international organizations and industry players which provide for more contributions, involvement and exchange on AVSEC relevant topics. The ENAVSECG is filling its key role as the only overarching and inclusive AVSEC meeting in the EUR/NAT Regions.

In 2016 the ENAVSECG took the next step and invited AVSEC and Facilitation Officers from the neighboring ICAO Regional Offices of Cairo and Dakar to share success stories and challenges and improve inter-regional coordination.

III. Contribution to the Global Aviation Security Plan (GASeP) Implementation

The Global Aviation Security Plan (GASeP), approved by the ICAO Council in November 2017, focusses on 5 key priorities and serves as an additional tool to reach compliance with Annex 17 in a structured way. To familiarize States with the GASeP, Regional Conferences were held in all ICAO Regions. The EUR/NAT Regional GASeP Conference, held in May 2018 in Lisbon, Portugal, was attended by over 200 representatives from the majority of the EUR/NAT States, stakeholders and a few observers.



The Conference endorsed a regional GASeP roadmap and released a conference declaration giving a clear mandate to the ENAVSECG to coordinate all efforts in the Region.

"The Europe and North-Atlantic (EUR/NAT) Aviation Security Roadmap, endorsed by the Regional Conference..., forms the basis for the work to be carried out by States and stakeholders in the EUR/NAT Regions, as coordinated by the ICAO European and North Atlantic (EUR/NAT) office via its EUR/NAT Aviation Security Group (ENAVSECG), in close cooperation with bodies/groups/fora in the EUR/NAT Regions ... and in line with the Global Aviation Security Plan (GASeP) approved by the ICAO Council".

During the second High Level Conference on Aviation Security (Montreal, November 2018) which aimed at summarizing the outcomes of all regional GASeP Conferences, two trendsetting working papers (inter alia), both in line with the GASeP key priority five *"Increase cooperation and support"*, were presented and endorsed. One paper provided on behalf EU/ECAC States requested that ICAO maps available capacity building activities. The second paper, presented by the Chairpersons of the ENAVSECG from Georgia, the Russian Federation and Switzerland, proposed that an impartial, inclusive and collaborative regional mechanism be established to better coordinate capacity building activities in the EUR/NAT Regions and achieve a harmonized implementation of AVSEC requirements.

The following conclusion of the High Level Conference reflects the two proposals:

“Regional/inter-regional initiatives and mechanisms promote shared accountability for GAsEP objectives and priorities, and provide a useful platform for the coordination of relevant efforts. ICAO Regional Offices play an important role in assisting Member States to address common issues and challenges in implementing the GAsEP”.

IV. Establishment of the ENAVSECG sub-group ECHO

The ENAVSECG/07 (June 2019) supported the establishment of a dedicated sub-group encompassing States, organizations and industry tasked to develop an impartial, inclusive and collaborative mechanism to align capacity building activities in the region, by mapping resources and linking them with identified prevailing needs in order to avoid duplication.

In October 2019 the sub-group called “ECHO” standing for “ENAVSECG Coordination Hub Organon” conducted its first meeting comprising 15 members and representing all entities. The group is chaired by Portugal, Kazakhstan and IATA.

The first meeting established a work programme based on existing tools and new ones to be developed. A continuous working format with members staying in contact in between meetings was adopted. The second “ECHO” meeting will take place virtually on 9-10 December 2020 and will incorporate the new reality imposed by the COVID-19 crisis and its potential influence on the work programme.

V. The latest ENAVSECG meetings

The pandemic poses a challenge for the entire aviation sector including AVSEC. AVSEC personnel, for example, are frontline staff who closely interact with passengers. Current circumstances make it an arduous task to provide the appropriate protection of civil aviation from acts of unlawful interference avoiding new vulnerabilities while following the necessary sanitary measures required by national health authorities.

An ad-hoc ENAVSECG meeting dedicated to AVSEC in times of the pandemic and contingency solutions for maintaining an acceptable level of security was conducted on 12 June 2020.

The regular eighth meeting of ENAVSECG was conducted from 6 to 9 October 2020 (videoconference) with the participation of 120 experts from



37 States, 9 international and regional organizations and 6 ICAO Aviation Security Training Centres. The meeting followed up on AVSEC relevant developments in connection with COVID-19, reviewed and discussed the evolution of Annex 17 and Annex 9, new and emerging threats (e.g. UAS, cybersecurity), quality control and coordinated capacity building activities. In this regard participants welcomed the WP from the first “ECHO” meeting and encouraged the working group to continue its efforts.

The ninth ENAVSECG meeting will take place in fall 2021, tentatively foreseen as a face to face meeting kindly hosted by Switzerland, if and when the pandemic situation permits.

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ICAO EUR/NAT

VI. EUR/NAT TRAINING, WORKSHOPS & WEBINARS

Upcoming

- 04 November 2020: Webinar on “Strengthening International and Interagency Cooperation among Facilitation Stakeholders” (Russian Language);
- 05 November 2020: Webinar on “Guidance for Aviation Security Contingency Measures during COVID-19 pandemic” (Russian Language);

Conducted webinars:

- Recording of Webinar on “Strengthening International and Interagency Cooperation among Facilitation Stakeholders” (23 June 2020, in English): <https://bit.ly/2TE8P53>
- Recording of Webinar on “Guidance for Aviation Security Contingency Measures during COVID-19 pandemic” (06 August 2020, in English) available on the ICAO Secure Portal in the “ENAVSECG” group.

Necessary Information:

- Information on ICAO Council Aviation Recovery Taskforce (CART): <https://www.icao.int/covid/cart/Pages/default.aspx>
- Information on ICAO COVID-19 Response and Recovery Implementation Centre (CRRIC): <https://www.icao.int/covid/Pages/crric.aspx>
- Information on ICAO Implementation Package (iPack): <https://www.icao.int/secretariat/TechnicalCooperation/Pages/iPack.aspx>

VII. The EUR/NAT Team

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*The next RD Brief will be issued on 10 November 2020.
The focus will be on Global Reporting Format and the
new SNOWTAM.*